

## REMARKS

Claims 17, 18 and 20 – 34 are pending in this application. Claims 17, 18 and 20 – 34 are rejected in the present Office Action.

Claims 17, 18 and 20 – 31 were rejected as unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,197,874, issued to Irle. Claims 17, 18 and 20 – 34 were rejected as unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,854,332, issued to Swarup. Claims 17, 18 and 20 – 31 were rejected as unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,117,936, issued to Kato. Claim 17 has been amended to include 0.5 to 10 weight percent of at least one monomer having a functionality of aceto acetoxy, hydroxyl, methylol or a mixture thereof. Support for this amendment is found on page 11, lines 22 – 28 of the specification. There is no disclosure, teaching or suggestion in Irle, Swarup or Kato of the inclusion of 0.5 to 10 weight percent of at least one monomer having a functionality of aceto acetoxy, hydroxyl, methylol or a mixture thereof. There is no disclosure, teaching or suggestion in Irle, Swarup or Kato that would lead one skilled in the art to these features. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 17, 18 and 20 – 31 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Irle and Kato and that claims 17, 18 and 20 – 34 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Swarup.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. If there are any issues that the Examiner wishes to discuss, he is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



Charles W. Almer  
Reg. No. 36,731  
Tel. No. 908 707-3738

National Starch and Chemical Company  
10 Finderne Avenue  
Bridgewater, NJ 08807  
December 13, 2004